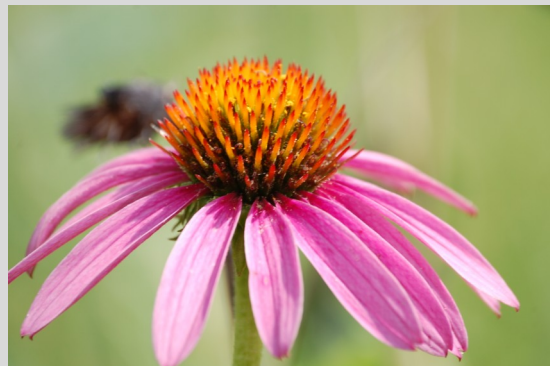


Neal Smith

National Wildlife Refuge



Special Events



Teacher Workshop

Monday and Tuesday, June 11 and 12

9:00 am—5:00 pm

“Teaching in the Outdoor Classroom” is a two day workshop for educators and/or anyone interested in learning ways to connect people to nature. Registration is required.

Astronomy Night

Friday, June 29

9:00 pm—9:45 pm

Bring families and friends to join astronomy expert and storyteller, Mary Schendel, and a park ranger for a night of discovery. Explore constellations, the moon, and the prairie at night!

Registration is required.



Annual Butterfly Count

Sunday, July 15

1:00 pm—3:00 pm

Neal Smith National Wildlife Refuge will be participating in the 38th annual NABA Butterfly Count and would love for you to join us. The types and amount of butterflies identified will be recorded and used to help track butterfly populations of North America. Volunteers of all ages and skill levels are welcomed to participate. Pre-registration is encouraged.



All programs are
**FREE & open to
the public!**



For more information: (515) 994-3400 - <http://www.fws.gov/midwest/nealsmith/>

Program & Activity Guide

Naturalist Programs

Nature Tots

Children ages 3-5 are invited to bring their favorite adult and join us as we read stories, go outside, make nature crafts, and much more! **Pre-registration required.**

Date	Time	Age	Topic
June 2	10:30 am—11:30 am	3Y to 5Y	Amazing Ants
July 7	10:30 am—11:30 am	3Y to 5Y	Night Sky
August 4	10:30 am—11:30 am	3Y to 5Y	Fabulous Flowers



2 Simple Ways to Register!

1. Phone:

Call (515)994-3400

2. Online:

E-mail

Michelle_Garcia@fws.gov

Sunday Ranger Hikes

A ranger welcomes and leads visitors of all ages on nature hikes through the prairie. **Pre-registration required.**

Date	Time	Age	Topic
June 24	2:00 pm—3:00 pm	All	Insects
July 22	2:00 pm—3:00 pm	All	Photo Hunt
August 19	2:00 pm—3:00 pm	All	Oak Savanna

Volunteer Opportunities

Second Saturday Stewardship

Interested in giving back to the environment and your community? Stewardship volunteer programs occur on the 2nd Saturday of each month at the Refuge.

To register, contact **Megan Wandag** at *Megan_Wandag@fws.gov* or (515) 994-3400.

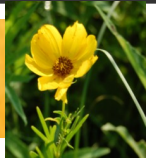
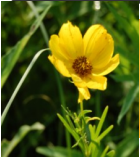
Date	Time	Age
June 9	9:00 am—12:00 pm	All
July 14	9:00 am—12:00 pm	All
August 11	9:00 am—12:00 pm	All

DON'T FORGET!

Bring a reusable water bottle while exploring!



For more information: (515) 994-3400 <http://www.fws.gov/midwest/nealsmith/>



Self-Guided

Return to Wildness Movie

15 minutes

Film presentation about Neal Smith NWR is shown every hour on the half hour, or upon request. No group is too small!

The Prairie

COME VISIT!

Learning and Visitor Center is open every day except Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's Day. Visitor Center hours are 9am-4pm, Monday—Saturday, and 12pm-5pm on Sundays. Trails and Auto Tour are open from dawn to dusk.

Outdoor Scavenger Hunts

How many birds do you see?

Can you identify flowers?

Borrow a copy of a seasonal scavenger hunt and ID sheets at the information desk of the Visitor Center to use while you hike.



Hiking Trails

Take a hike through the beautiful tallgrass prairie or oak savanna. Try to find blooming flowers, birds, or butterflies! Brochures and maps available at the Visitor Center.

Trail	Length	Surface	Habitat
Overlook Trail	1/2 mile	Paved—Accessible	Tallgrass Prairie
Tallgrass Trail	2 miles	Paved	Tallgrass Prairie
Oak Savanna Trail	1/2 mile	Gravel	Oak Savanna
Basswood Trail	1/2 mile	Grass	Woodland

Prairie Learning Center Exhibits

Come explore the interactive exhibits at the Prairie Learning Center! Exhibits include an underground maze, videos, drawing table, scavenger hunts, puppet theatre, and exploratory bison room.



LET'S CRUISE

Enjoy the Refuge from the comfort of your vehicle on the 4 mile Auto Tour. This is the best way to see bison or elk. Check out a narrated interpretive CD of the route for FREE at the visitor center.



All programs are FREE & open to the public!

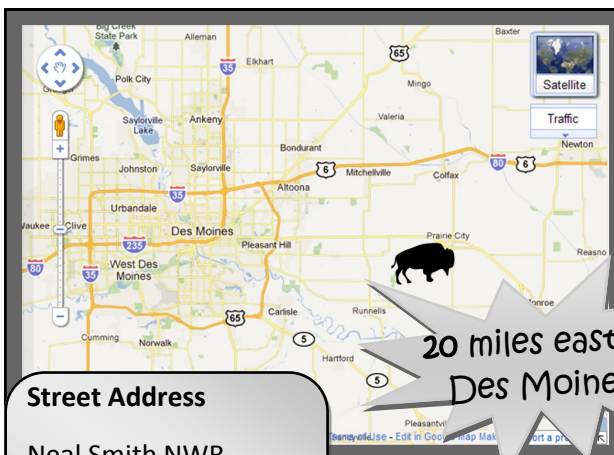
Summer Exploration Ideas

Here are some summer activities that you can do by yourself or with friends and family:

1. Celebrate Prairie Birthdays: Aldo Leopold, a famous naturalist, claimed that nearly every day a new flower unfolds on the prairie in the summer. He called these new blooms "prairie birthdays". Can you find any prairie birthdays today? If you do, then how will you celebrate them?

2. Watch the clouds go by: Lay down on your back in the tall, tall grasses and look up at the clouds. Describe their shapes and watch their shadows move across the prairie. Relax and enjoy the peace. (You can thank us later for this blissful idea).

3. Invertebrate search: Bend down and look at the prairie soil. Can you find wiggly worms, black beetles, or daddy long legs? Search through the tops of the grasses. Are there different insects up higher? Are there bees, butterflies, or grasshoppers? Look carefully because these critters are masters of camouflage.



Street Address

Neal Smith NWR
9981 Pacific Street
Prairie City, IA 50228

20 miles east of
Des Moines!



LET'S EXPLORE

Come explore the natural wonders Neal Smith NWR has to offer! Check out binoculars for FREE at the Visitor Center during normal business hours.



Did you know....

... the first bison calf at Neal Smith NWR of 2012 was born on April 16? We are expecting that there will be about 20 by the end of the summer!

DIRECTIONS TO THE REFUGE

Coming from the EAST on Interstate 80, take the Colfax exit and go south on Iowa HWY 117, about 7 miles to Prairie City. The paved entry road is located at the southwest corner of Prairie City at the Highway 163-Prairie City Interchange.

Coming from the WEST take University Avenue/ HWY 163 east for about 20 miles to Prairie City. The paved entry road is located at the southwest corner of Prairie City at the Highway 163-Prairie City Interchange.

